## **For Immediate Release**

January 27, 2003

(Jackson, MS) – Governor Ronnie Musgrove released the following statement today regarding medical malpractice insurance:

"The sole reason I called the special session last summer was the affordability and availability of medical malpractice insurance. We proposed the compensation fund as the centerpiece of our overall package.

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"The compensation fund remains the only proposal which would assure our doctors access to affordable medical malpractice insurance. The insurance companies fought us on this proposal. It is now extremely disheartening that the insurance companies are not working with our doctors. It is time for the legislature to stand up to the insurance companies and pass the compensation fund.

"We are working closely with Attorney General Moore, Dr. Amy, State Health Officer, and Robert Latham, Executive Director of MEMA, to review the State of Emergency request by Harrison and Hancock counties.

"If we had passed the compensation fund that I proposed last summer, we would have coverage in place for our doctors, not only on the coast, but across the state, and access to health care for our people."